

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 375
Gloucester City, NJ
08030

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Barrington, Bellmawr, Berlin, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, Egg Harbor City, Gibbsboro, Gibbstown, Glassboro, Glendora, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com October 2015

Presidents Report

You will see the Article 8 grievances from our Deptford/Woodbury office have finally slowed down. It appears with prime time vacations just about over and a new management philosophy; the bleeding has stopped for now. Hopefully, this office is heading in the right direction. The next issue that has to be resolved is the fixing of the times of our DUO offices in Deptford. I just returned from a meeting in the district on September 30th and brought our concerns to the head of operations support Joe Stewart. Mr. Stewart has promised us once again that they are looking to get these offices adjusted properly and will do what he can to make that happen. I know talk is cheap, but he didn't create this mess, so I am willing to give him a chance to right this ship. My next meeting in the district is in early January, so I hope they have this issue resolved by then, or we will be back in there asking the same question. The next issue I want to discuss is a situation that seems to have resurfaced in some of our offices. The issue concerns third bundles on park and loop routes. In some offices management is forcing carriers to take certain mailings directly to the street, regardless if they are a full set of addressed mailings. This issue has been resolved nationally and I will once again put it in the newsletter for those managers who continually try and get over on some of our newer employees. The agreement is a Step 4(M-01861) decision recently updated on June 6, 2015. It states, "with respect to presequenced addressed mailings only, city letter carriers on park and loop or foot delivery routes may, within weight restrictions, be required to carry as a third bundle Enhanced Carrier Route (ECR) and Periodicals walk sequenced letter or flat mailings (WSS) based on either the 90% or more coverage of the total active residential deliveries on a route or 75% or more coverage of the total number of active deliveries on a route criteria. Each presequenced addressed mailing for a particular route that meets this criteria is identified with a label/indicia containing the ECRWSS endorsement. This label/indicia remains the determining factor of whether a presequenced addressed mailing on a particular route meets the above referenced criteria required to assign a city letter carrier on a park and loop or foot route to carry it as a third bundle within weight restrictions. Accordingly, if a presequenced addressed mailing for a particular route is identified with a different label/indicia (e.g. ECRWSH or ECRLOT), the bundle would not meet the subject criteria. I hope this clears up this issue once and for all. I will have a copy of this memo at the regular meeting if you need one. Another item I would like to mention is our new Letter Carrier Political Fund. This replaces COLCPE and I would like to thank all of those who are stepping up and joining your 100 or so members who are now giving to this most important fund. As the political season will be upon us shortly, it is very important that we elect those candidates who support the causes that directly relate to our jobs in the postal service. With your donations to our Letter Carrier Political Fund, we can make sure our leaders get the financial backing that we will need to get the right people in office, regardless of their affiliation. President Rolando is forming a national network of members who will bring our concerns to all politicians across both aisles to explain to them that the survival of the postal service is not a bi-partisan issue, but an American Constitutional issue. Start looking for more information as we go forward. One last item I would like to mention. The postal service intends to implement another new

system called Geo-Delivery, which is a web based tool that will make auxiliary street assignments. I will go over the new memo at this month's meeting in more detail.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now At \$200

Had she attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, September 16, Donna Villec**, a member from our Riverton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$175** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$200** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, October 21 @ 8 p.m.**, at the American Legion Hall, 502 Colonial Ave., North Woodbury. The regular monthly meetings of the Branch are held on the Third Wednesday of each month @ 8 p.m., The Branch Board of Officers and Shop Stewards meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, October 14 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Health Benefits

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. Make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. Stay safe, and schedule a mammogram today. Open season has been announced. The dates will be from Monday November 9th through Monday December 14th, 2015. Rates for the NALC Plan have been released. The new self-plus one is more expensive than family in all plans nationwide. To see NALC HBP Rates for 2016 go to <http://www.nalchbp.org/2016-rates>. The date for the open house Health Fair will be Thursday November 5th from 2-8:30 PM. The fair is held in the cafeteria of the District Plant at 421 Benigno Blvd., Bellmawr, NJ. Entrance will be from the side parking lot, first right area, and through the cafeteria doors located towards the front of the building. This would be a great time to pick up the NALC Health Benefit Plan catalogs. Do not forget your optical reimbursement. Branch 908 affords to every member one per family, per year \$20 reimbursement for optical needs. Send a copy of your receipt to me at: George Greenwood, HBR 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any HBP or optical questions please give me a call at 856-346-1177. Be Safe.

George W. Greenwood, HBR.

Save The Date Children's Christmas Party

The annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **December 6th, from 1pm- 3pm** at the Union Hall. Anyone interested in helping or has any questions can contact Trustee Pete DeSimone@ 609-680-3129

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Deptford- Management violated Article 8.5. of the National Agreement when they forced non-ODL carriers to work overtime. As a remedy, the following ODL and CCA carriers who were shown to be available to work the overtime shall be compensated at the appropriate overtime rate. Dealy **\$57.00**, and Calsamillia **\$10.00**.

Deptford- Management violated Article 8.5. of the National Agreement when they forced non-ODL carriers to work overtime on another assignment. As a remedy, the following ODL carriers who were shown to be available to work additional overtime shall be compensated at the appropriate overtime rate of pay for the lost work opportunity. Swinton **\$342.00** and Harter **\$43.00**.

Hammonton- Management violated Article 7 when they refused to pay the grievant, a CCA, higher level pay after being assigned to a vacant Carrier Technician assignment. As a remedy the grievant shall be compensated for the loss of pay. CCA Busch will be paid an additional **\$20.32**.

Step A Settlements

Voorhees- Management violated Article 8.5.G. when they forced non-ODL carriers to work off their assignment when an available ODL was available to do the work. As a remedy, carrier Najimi will be paid 2 hours at the overtime rate for lost opportunity.

Marlton- Letter of Warning for Failure To Follow Instructions/AWOL shall be rescinded. A cease and desist from violating the memo of understanding(m-01833) when dealing with CCA's being not required to be on stand by for a phone call or required to call in each day they are not scheduled to work.

Notice of Nominations and Election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards and Convention Delegates

This is to provide official notice that nominations for the election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates for the term 2016 thru 2017 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 21, 2015**. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership and held as soon as possible after nominations at the October regular monthly meeting. Nominations shall be made from the meeting room floor or in writing to the Branch Recording Secretary, mailed, or presented to him/her prior to or at the October regular Branch meeting. Each eligible member of the Branch nominated for office shall accept or reject nomination in writing prior to the adjournment of the October regular monthly Branch meeting. Failure to accept nomination for Branch office prior to adjournment of the October regular Branch meeting will invalidate the nomination. Shop Stewards shall be nominated by an eligible Branch member from the office at which the nominee is employed to represent the Branch membership. Installation of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch in January. Offices up for election include that of the Branch President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Trustees' Chairman, Trustees (4), Health Benefits Representative, Housing Chairperson, Sgt. at Arms, Shop Stewards (19) and approximately (36) Convention Delegates. The number of Convention Delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a State or National Convention, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for such compensation, shall not exceed two and one half (2.5) percent of the total Branch membership, (which is approximately 18).

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

The Combined Federal Campaign is a federal government program that allows federal employees, including letter carriers, to donate to charitable organizations of their choice by designating an amount to be deducted from their paychecks. Employees may give to more than one charity. Participation is strictly voluntary. CFC is one of the largest workplace giving programs in the country—federal employees and military

personnel donate millions of dollars each year to thousands of charities and causes, a few dollars at a time, simply by filling out one form during the CFC drive period at the end of each year. An NALC representative or manager may provide forms and information on CFC during that period, or you can ask for information on how to designate donations. Two charitable causes that letter carriers may want to consider supporting through CFC are:

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), the NALC's official charity (CFC No. 10561).

The Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF), a program administered by NALC and several other postal unions and management organizations that provides assistance to postal employees who are victims of natural disasters or home fires (CFC No. 10268).

Ozzie's Corner

Happy Halloween Branch 908 family! The Letter Carrier Political Fund had five contributors this month: David Beck, Arthur Rybicki Jr, Robert F. Rieger Jr, William Gore and James Rusin Jr. As the LCPF Chairman of 908, all active and retired members are urged to donate \$1 every pay period. The LCPF is designed to do one purpose, to protect our jobs. If you need to contact me you can meet me in person at our general meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month or contact me by phone at (856) 220-8658.

Ozzie Lecky, Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

Branch Picnic

The Branch Picnic held on Sept 13, at Clementon Park was a big success. 180 members and their families enjoyed a perfect weather day in the two parks. In addition to the food and drink catered by the park, we also had wings and a hoagie tray this year. Phil Haas would like to thank all those who attended and helped make this a success. Great job Phil.

Phil Haas Sgt. at Arms

Latest cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)

Based on the Sept. 16 release of the August 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI), the accumulation toward the seventh cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement is \$0. As announced in August, the sixth COLA for letter carriers under the National Agreement will be \$0.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Mental health

Letter carriers seeking EAP services may contact their local union officers for information, or call **800-327-4968** or go to **www.eap4you.com**.

Attention

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Alternatively, send changes to **Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030** or **908recordingsec@comcast.net**

Name: _____
Current Address: _____ _____
New Address: _____ _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____